

# WQE Sixth Form College: Provider Access Policy

## Introduction

This policy statement sets out the College's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the Colleges' legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

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## Student entitlement

All students in years 12 and 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at key transition points;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For students in Year 12 - 13, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, we will ensure at least two provider encounters are available during this period. As per the guidance these are optional for students to attend.

This builds on work carried out at secondary school where students will have had a minimum of two encounters with providers during Year 8 – 9 and two encounters from Year 10 to 11.

These provider encounters will be scheduled to allow access by as many students as possible and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- explain what career routes those options could lead to;

- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and students from the provider) and
- answer questions from students

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## Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the [“Making it meaningful” checklist](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

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## Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- ASK Apprenticeships
- Leicester College
- Leicester Education Business Company (LEBC)
- Loughborough College
- NHS – including University Hospitals Leicester and Leicestershire Partnership Trust
- South Leicestershire College
- Stephenson and Brooksby Melton

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## Destinations of our students

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after College

In terms of destinations generally the picture is positive with most students (95.2%) progressing to a positive outcome. There has been a shift in the progression patterns compared to previous years. It is worth noting that the proportion progressing directly into Higher Education has decreased by around 17 percentage points from last year and is similar to more usual pre-pandemic levels. This has not led to a return to students taking a gap year but rather there has been a substantial increase of approximately 17 percentage points in the proportion of students progressing into employment or training, including Apprenticeships, as an alternative to higher education.

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## Management of provider access requests

### Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Kate O'Farrell, Careers Education Manager, [kate.ofarrell@wqe.ac.uk](mailto:kate.ofarrell@wqe.ac.uk)

The College reserves the right to decline requests for a number of reasons, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- if such attendance would provide an imbalanced view of available provision (e.g. several apprenticeship providers at an event and no colleges);
- if the provider's input would not be relevant to a particular event if the request is not timely (e.g. students have already heard from similar providers during the year, or if they are involved in end of year exams);
- if the information is not seen to be in the best interest of pupils or there are concerns about the ethics or quality of the provision. In such cases, the Principal or the Careers Leader would inform the provider of this decision and the reason why. If the provider wishes to appeal this decision, they can contact the Principal. If the provider wishes to appeal the decision received from the Principal, they should contact the Chair of Governors at the College.

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## Opportunities for access

The College offers the provider encounters required (marked below in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the College careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students or their parents or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

**At least two encounters for students during Years 12 and 13 that are mandatory for the College to provide but optional for students to attend. These encounters are an established part of the College's calendar and include**

1. **WQE University Exhibition** – takes place in March and includes providers of approved technical education qualifications and/or Apprenticeships
2. **WQE Careers Fair** – as above
3. **FutureWISE progression event** – takes place in June and includes talks workshops on a wide range of progression opportunities including Apprenticeships

In addition to the mandatory encounters, we will offer providers further opportunities to come into College to speak to pupils or their parents/carers.

Opportunities include:

1. Apprenticeship Workshops
2. Lunchtime Career Talks
3. In College Workshops

The College's policy on safeguarding sets out the College's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students.

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## Premises and facilities

The College will make rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The College will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers rooms at University Road and Regent Road.

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## Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the College complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk).

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## Approval and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure that current legislation and best practice is recorded.

Approved 15/5/23 by Executive Leadership Team